

Message Text

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43

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SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION ISSUE: EDITORIAL IN PROGRESSIVE PARTY
NEWSPAPER

1. IN PARTY NEWSPAPERS PAST WEEKEND, SIGNIFICANT EDITORIALS
APPEARED AS STATEMENTS OF PARTY POSITIONS ON DEFENSE NEGOTIATIONS
WITH USG. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF EDITORIAL WHICH APPEARED IN
TIMINN, PROGRESSIVE PARTY PAPER, DECEMBER 1 AND SIGNED BY EDITOR
TOMAS KARLSSON:

QUOTE: THE NEXT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT ON REVIEWING OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT WILL BE THIS
MONTH AND EXPECTEDLY IN REYKJAVIK.

DURING THE LAST MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE IN REYKJAVIK IN NOVEM-
BER, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES PORTER INTRO-
DUCED PROPOSALS FOR A CHANGED ARRANGEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY AT
KEFLAVIK AIRPORT. THESE PROPOSALS ARE CURRENTLY BEING STUDIED
BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

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IT IS NO SECRET THAT THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY WISHES THAT THE CHANGES

WHICH WILL BE MADE IN THE ARRANGEMENT OF SECURITY AFFAIRS IN THIS REVIEWING OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED WITH APPROVAL FROM OUR CLOSEST ALLIES IN NATO AND IN AS GOOD PEACE WITH THESE ALLIES AS POSSIBLE.

QUOTE: THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAVE BOTH DECLARED THAT THEY BELIEVE IT TO BE AN INCORRECT INTERPRETATION OF THE PLATFORM DECLARATION OF THE CABINET ON THE DEFENSE AFFAIRS, THAT THE ARMED FORCE SHALL UNCONDITIONALLY AND UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES LEAVE THIS COUNTRY DURING THE ELECTION TERM. THE STUDY OF THE DEFENSE AFFAIRS AND THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AMERICANS ON REVIEWING OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT HAVE TAKEN MORE TIME THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED AND FOR VARIOUS REASONS BUT PRIMARILY DUE TO THE FISHING LIMITS ISSUE, WHICH HAS TAKEN UP ALMOST ALL THE TIME OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE ELECTION TERM.

QUOTE: WE HAVE NOW ENTERED INTO THE SECOND HALF OF THE ELECTION TERM AND IT MUST BE CONSIDERED RATHER CLEAR THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE THE ARMED FORCE LEAVE DURING THE ELECTION TERM UNLESS THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT IS TO BE TERMINATED. ACCORDING TO PROVISIONS OF THAT AGREEMENT THE ARMED FORCE IS TO WITHDRAW IN TWELVE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF TERMINATION.

QUOTE: AS HAS BEEN POINTED OUT, THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY EMPHASIZES THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PLATFORM DECLARATION OF THE CABINET WILL BE ATTAINED WITH REVIEWING OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT, THAT IS TO SAY, THAT THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE TERMINATED BUT THAT IT WILL BE AGEED UPON THAT THE ARMED FORCE SHALL LEAVE STAGE BY STAGE OVER A SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME AND THEN IN SUCH FASHION, THAT THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION CAN GET AS MUCH USE OUT OF THE SURVEILLANCE AND ALERT ACTIVITY, WHICH WOULD BE MAINTAINED HERE BUT WITHOUT A FOREIGN ARMED FORCE BEING IN THIS COUNTRY.

QUOTE: THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY WANTS TO WORK UPON THIS ISSUE IN SUCH MANNER, THAT WE SHALL ABIDE BY THOSE OBLIGATIONS WE HAVE ACCEPTED WITH MEMBERSHIP TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION AND THOSE PROVISIONS OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT, WHICH SHALL REMAIN FULLY EFFECTIVE, EVEN IF THE DEFENSE UNCLASSIFIED

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AGREEMENT WILL BE TERMINATED.

QUOTE: ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT WE ARE TO MAINTAIN THE POSITION, THAT IS EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATIONS, WHICH WILL REMAIN HERE WHEN THE ARMED FORCE LEAVES AND THIS POSITION WE ARE TO KEEP AT THE READY, WHEN THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION AND THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE THIS POSITION FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY

ORGANIZATION TO USE.

QUOTE: FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY IT IS THEREFORE MOST ADVANTAGEOUS, THAT THE ARMED FORCE SHALL LEAVE IN ACCORDANCE TO A PLAN, OVER SOME PERIOD OF TIME AND THEN IN SUCH MANNER, THAT THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION WILL BE GRANTED SOME ADJUSTMENT PERIOD IN WHICH TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION AND THE ACTIVITY WHICH ARE ATTACHED TO THE STAY OF A FOREIGN ARMED FORCE IN THIS COUNTRY AND WHICH THEY CONSIDER NECESSARY, IN OTHER WAYS AND FROM OTHER LOCATIONS, AT THE SAME TIME AS THE ICELANDERS WOULD TAKE OVER THOSE DUTIES, WHICH CAN BE PERFORMED FROM THIS COUNTRY WITHOUT AN ARMED FORCE BEING HERE. IT IS THEREFORE UP TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WHETHER TERMINATION OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT MUST BE RESORTED TO OR NOT. END QUOTE.

2. ANSWERING ARTICLE IN PEOPLES' ALLIANCE NEWSPAPER THJODVILJINN BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTEL. EMBASSY COMMENTS ALSO FORWARDED SEPTEL. IRVING

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